



44 GP 2812

5589-02306/8688-06

PATENT

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:
Levy et al.

Serial No. 09/957,450

Filed: September 20, 2001

For: METHODS AND SYSTEMS FOR
DETERMINING A PRESENCE OF
MACRO AND MICRO DEFECTS
ON A SPECIMEN

§ Group Art Unit: 2812
§ Examiner: Unknown

§ Atty. Dkt. No. 5589-02306

§ I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited
with the U.S. Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope
addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington,
D.C. 20231, on the date indicated below:

6/5/02
Date

Pamela Gerik
Pamela Gerik

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Applicant requests consideration of the references listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 and/or the additional information identified below in paragraph 3. A copy of each reference listed on the Form PTO-1449 is enclosed.

1. This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

- a. within 3 months of the filing date of a national application other than a continued prosecution application under § 1.53(d);
 within 3 months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in § 1.491 in an International application;
 before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits; or
 before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under § 1.114.

- b. after the events of above paragraph 1a and prior to the mailing date of a final Office Action or Notice of Allowance, and thus: the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided, or a fee of \$180.00 is enclosed.

c. after the mailing date of a final Office Action or a Notice of Allowance and prior to payment of the issue fee, and thus: the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided and a fee of \$180.00 is enclosed.

2. It is hereby certified:

that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement, or

that no item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in § 1.56 (c) more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement.

3. Consideration of the following additional information (including any co-pending or abandoned U.S. applications, prior uses and/or sales, etc.) is requested:

4. For each non-English language reference listed on the attached Form PTO-1449:

reference is made to an English language translation submitted herewith, and/or

reference is made to a foreign patent office search report (in the English language) submitted herewith, and/or

reference is made to an English language translation of a foreign patent office search report submitted herewith, and/or

reference is made to the concise explanation contained in the specification of the present application at page(s) _____, and/or

reference is made to the concise explanation set forth below:

5. Applicant also offers the following comments for the Examiner's consideration:

6. Also enclosed is a copy of a foreign search report citing these references.

7. The listed documents were brought to the attention of the Applicant(s) after payment of the issue fee in the captioned case. The documents were cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. Applicant(s) request this Information Disclosure Statement and attached Form PTO-1449 be placed in the file of the captioned application.

8. Applicant(s) requests that the Information Disclosure Statement and attached Form PTO-1449 and references, which are being filed before the grant of the patent and pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(i), be placed in the file of the captioned application.

If any required fees are missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Conley, Rose & Tayon, P.C. Deposit Account No. 50-1505/5589-02306.

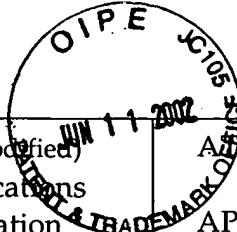
Respectfully submitted,



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Agent for Applicant(s)

CONLEY, ROSE & TAYON, P.C.
P. O. Box 398
Austin, Texas 78767
(512) 476-1400

Date: 6/5/02



Form PTO-1449 (modified) List of Patents and Publications For Applicant's Information Disclosure Statement (Use several sheets if necessary)		ARTY. DKT. NO. 5589-02306 APPLICANT: Levy et al. FILING DATE: September 20, 2001	SERIAL NO. 09/957,450 GROUP: 2812
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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAM. INITIALS	REF. DES.	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB CLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	A1	3,946,484	3/1976	Aronstein et al.			
	A2	4,232,063	11/1980	Rosler et al.			
	A3	4,247,203	1/1981	Levy et al.			
	A4	4,347,001	8/1982	Levy et al.			
	A5	4,378,159	3/1983	Galbraith			
	A6	4,448,532	5/1984	Joseph et al.			
	A7	4,532,650	7/1985	Wihl et al.			
	A8	4,555,798	11/1985	Broadbent, Jr. et al.			
	A9	4,556,317	12/1985	Sandland et al.			
	A10	4,559,450	12/1985	Robinson et al.			
	A11	4,571,685	2/1986	Kamoshida			
	A12	4,578,589	3/1986	Aitken			
	A13	4,579,455	4/1986	Levy et al.			
	A14	4,579,463	4/1986	Rosencwaig et al.			
	A15	4,587,432	5/1986	Aitken			
	A16	4,599,558	7/1986	Castellano, Jr. et al.			
	A17	4,601,576	7/1986	Galbraith			
	A18	4,618,938	10/1986	Sandland et al.			
	A19	4,619,529	10/1986	Iuchi et al.			
	A20	4,633,504	12/1986	Wihl			
	A21	4,641,967	2/1987	Pecen			
	A22	4,644,172	2/1987	Sandland et al.			
	A23	4,645,929	2/1987	Criegern et al.			
	A24	4,710,030	12/1987	Tauc et al.			
	A25	4,733,091	3/1988	Robinson et al.			
	A26	4,743,767	5/1988	Plumb et al.			
	A27	4,750,822	6/1988	Rosencwaig et al.			

EXAMINER:

DATE CONSIDERED:

EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to the patent owner.

Form PTO-1449 (modified)

List of Patents and Publications
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 Disclosure Statement
 (Use several sheets if necessary)

C P E
CATTY. DKT. NO. 5589-02306

SERIAL NO. 09/957,450

APPLICANT: Levy et al.

GROUP: 2812

FILING DATE: September 20, 2001

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAM. INITIALS	REF. DES.	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB CLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	A28	4,766,324	8/1988	Saadat et al.			
	A29	4,805,123	2/1989	Specht et al.			
	A30	4,812,756	3/1989	Curtis et al.			
	A31	4,818,110	4/1989	Davidson			
	A32	4,842,683	6/1989	Cheng et al.			
	A33	4,845,558	7/1989	Tsai et al.			
	A34	4,854,710	8/1989	Opsal et al.			
	A35	4,877,326	10/1989	Chadwick et al.			
	A36	4,898,471	2/1990	Stonestrom et al.			
	A37	4,905,170	2/1990	Forouhi et al.			
	A38	4,912,326	3/1990	Naito			
	A39	4,926,489	5/1990	Danielson et al.			
	A40	4,999,014	3/1991	Gold et al.			
	A41	4,999,578	3/1991	Ohashi et al.			
	A42	5,023,424	6/1991	Vaught			
	A43	5,042,951	8/1991	Gold et al.			
	A44	5,043,589	8/1991	Smedt et al.			
	A45	5,047,648	9/1991	Fishkin et al.			
	A46	5,076,692	12/1991	Neukermans et al.			
	A47	5,112,129	5/1992	Davidson et al.			
	A48	5,181,080	1/1993	Fanton et al.			
	A49	5,189,481	2/1993	Jann et al.			
	A50	5,215,619	6/1993	Cheng et al.			
	A51	5,264,912	11/1993	Vaught et al.			
	A52	5,344,491	9/1994	Katou			
	A53	5,355,212	10/1994	Wells et al.			
	A54	5,393,624	2/1995	Ushijima			

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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAM. INITIALS	REF. DES.	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB CLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	A55	5,401,316	3/1995	Shiraishi et al.			
	A56	5,412,473	5/1995	Rosencwaig et al.			
	A57	5,438,313	8/1995	Henderson et al.			
	A58	5,485,091	1/1996	Verkuil			
	A59	5,516,608	5/1996	Hobbs et al.			
	A60	5,517,312	5/1996	Finarov			
	A61	5,537,669	7/1996	Evans et al.			
	A62	5,563,702	10/1996	Emery et al.			
	A63	5,565,979	10/1996	Gross			
	A64	5,572,598	11/1996	Wihl et al.			
	A65	5,581,350	12/1996	Chen et al.			
	A66	5,594,247	1/1997	Verkuil et al.			
	A67	5,596,406	1/1997	Rosencwaig et al.			
	A68	5,596,411	1/1997	Fanton et al.			
	A69	5,604,344	2/1997	Finarov			
	A70	5,604,585	2/1997	Johnson et al.			
	A71	5,614,060	3/1997	Hanawa			
	A72	5,619,548	4/1997	Koppel			
	A73	5,633,747	5/1997	Nikoonahad			
	A74	5,641,969	6/1997	Cooke et al.			
	A75	5,644,223	7/1997	Verkuil			
	A76	5,650,731	7/1997	Fung et al.			
	A77	5,652,654	7/1997	Asimopoulos			
	A78	5,682,242	10/1997	Eylon			
	A79	5,684,393	11/1997	Ryat			
	A80	5,689,614	11/1997	Gronet et al.			
	A81	5,695,568	12/1997	Sinha et al.			

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Form PTO-1449 (modified)

List of Patents and Publications
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ATTY. DKT. NO. 5589-02306

SERIAL NO. 09/957,450

APPLICANT: Levy et al.

GROUP: 2812

FILING DATE: September 20, 2001

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAM. INITIALS	REF. DES.	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB CLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	A82	5,699,156	12/1997	Carver			
	A83	5,712,707	1/1998	Ausschnitt et al.			
	A84	5,730,642	3/1998	Sandhu et al.			
	A85	5,737,072	4/1998	Emery et al.			
	A86	5,740,226	4/1998	Komiya et al.			
	A87	5,747,813	5/1998	Norton et al.			
	A88	5,748,318	5/1998	Maris et al.			
	A89	5,754,297	5/1998	Nulman			
	A90	5,757,507	5/1998	Ausschnitt et al.			
	A91	5,764,365	6/1998	Finarov			
	A92	5,767,693	6/1998	Verkuil			
	A93	5,770,099	6/1998	Rice et al.			
	A94	5,771,094	6/1998	Carter et al.			
	A95	5,798,829	8/1998	Vaez-Iravani			
	A96	5,798,837	8/1998	Aspnes et al.			
	A97	5,805,290	9/1998	Ausschnitt et al.			
	A98	5,822,055	10/1998	Tsai et al.			
	A99	5,825,482	10/1998	Nikoonahad et al.			
	A100	5,831,865	11/1998	Berezin et al.			
	A101	5,844,684	12/1998	Maris et al.			
	A102	5,849,136	12/1998	Mintz et al.			
	A103	5,859,964	1/1999	Wang et al.			
	A104	5,864,394	1/1999	Jordan, III et al.			
	A105	5,866,437	2/1999	Chen et al.			
	A106	5,867,590	2/1999	Eylon			
	A107	5,872,633	2/1999	Holzapfel et al.			
	A108	5,877,859	3/1999	Aspnes et al.			

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	A109	5,882,165	3/1999	Maydan et al.			
	A110	5,883,374	3/1999	Mathews			
	A111	5,883,710	3/1999	Nikoonahad et al.			
	A112	5,886,355	3/1999	Bright et al.			
	A113	5,887,085	3/1999	Otsuka			
	A114	5,889,593	3/1999	Bareket			
	A115	5,896,294	4/1999	Chow et al.			
	A116	5,900,939	5/1999	Aspnes et al.			
	A117	5,910,011	6/1999	Cruse			
	A118	5,910,842	6/1999	Piwonka-Corle et al.			
	A119	5,914,784	6/1999	Ausschnitt et al.			
	A120	5,917,588	6/1999	Addiego			
	A121	5,917,594	6/1999	Norton			
	A122	5,920,076	7/1999	Burgin et al.			
	A123	5,926,690	7/1999	Toprac et al.			
	A124	5,930,138	7/1999	Lin et al.			
	A125	5,935,338	8/1999	Lei et al.			
	A126	5,935,397	8/1999	Masterson			
	A127	5,943,122	8/1999	Holmes			
	A128	5,955,661	9/1999	Samsavar et al.			
	A129	5,959,735	9/1999	Maris et al.			
	A130	5,959,812	9/1999	Rothermel			
	A131	5,963,783	10/1999	Lowell et al.			
	A132	5,964,643	10/1999	Birang et al.			
	A133	5,966,312	10/1999	Chen			
	A134	5,968,691	10/1999	Yoshioka et al.			
	A135	5,973,323	10/1999	Adler et al.			

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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAM. INITIALS	REF. DES.	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB CLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	A136	5,973,787	10/1999	Aspnes et al.			
	A137	5,976,310	11/1999	Levy			
	A138	5,978,074	11/1999	Opsal et al.			
	A139	5,982,482	11/1999	Nelson et al.			
	A140	5,985,497	11/1999	Phan et al.			
	A141	6,008,906	12/1999	Maris			
	A142	6,012,966	1/2000	Ban et al.			
	A143	6,020,214	2/2000	Watanabe et al.			
	A144	6,020,957	2/2000	Rosengaus et al.			
	A145	6,023,338	2/2000	Bareket			
	A146	6,025,918	2/2000	Maris			
	A147	6,038,029	3/2000	Finarov			
	A148	6,039,848	3/2000	Moslehi et al.			
	A149	6,040,198	3/2000	Komiya et al.			
	A150	6,045,433	4/2000	Dvir et al.			
	A151	6,052,478	4/2000	Wihl et al.			
	A152	6,060,715	5/2000	England et al.			
	A153	6,064,517	5/2000	Chuang et al.			
	A154	6,072,147	6/2000	Koshiishi et al.			
	A155	6,072,178	6/2000	Mizuno			
	A156	6,072,320	6/2000	Verkuil			
	A157	6,074,518	6/2000	Imafuku et al.			
	A158	6,078,045	6/2000	Maul et al.			
	A159	6,078,386	6/2000	Tsai et al.			
	A160	6,080,287	6/2000	Drewery et al.			
	A161	6,081,325	6/2000	Leslie et al.			
	A162	6,083,363	7/2000	Ashtiani et al.			

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U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAM. INITIALS	REF. DES.	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB CLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	A163	6,084,679	7/2000	Steffan et al.			
	A164	6,086,737	7/2000	Patonay et al.			
	A165	6,089,181	7/2000	Suemasa et al.			
	A166	6,093,625	7/2000	Wagner et al.			
	A167	6,097,555	8/2000	Lehmann et al.			
	A168	6,099,705	8/2000	Chen et al.			
	A169	6,101,971	8/2000	Denholm et al.			
	A170	6,103,014	8/2000	Lei et al.			
	A171	6,107,629	8/2000	Benninghoven et al.			
	A172	6,108,087	8/2000	Nikoonahad et al.			
	A173	6,110,287	8/2000	Arai et al.			
	A174	6,112,697	9/2000	Sharan et al.			
	A175	6,114,216	9/2000	Yieh et al.			
	A176	6,122,046	9/2000	Almogy			
	A177	6,124,924	9/2000	Feldman et al.			
	A178	6,159,073	12/2000	Wiswesser et al.			
	A179	6,172,349	1/2001	Katz et al.			
	A180	6,175,416	1/2001	Maris et al.			
	A181	6,175,645	1/2001	Elyasaf et al.			
	A182	6,178,257	1/2001	Alumot et al.			
	A183	6,179,709	1/2001	Redeker et al.			
	A184	6,184,984	2/2001	Lee et al.			
	A185	6,191,605	2/2001	Miller et al.			
	A186	6,191,855	2/2001	Maris			
	A187	6,199,157	3/2001	Dov et al.			
	A188	6,201,601	3/2001	Vaez-Iravani et al.			
	A189	6,201,998	3/2001	Lin et al.			

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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAM. INITIALS	REF. DES.	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB CLASS	TRANSLATION YES/NO
	B1	0 993 019	4/2000	EP			
	B2	1 022 093	7/2000	EP			
	B3	1 061 358	12/2000	EP			
	B4	1 061 571	12/2000	EP			
	B5	1 065 567	1/2001	EP			
	B6	1 066 925	1/2001	EP			
	B7	1 069 609	1/2001	EP			
	B8	1 071 128	1/2001	EP			
	B9	1 072 894	1/2001	EP			
	B10	1 072 967	1/2001	EP			
	B11	1 081 489	3/2001	EP			
	B12	1 081 741	3/2001	EP			
	B13	1 081 742	3/2001	EP			
	B14	1 083 424	3/2001	EP			
	B15	1 093 017	4/2001	EP			
	B16	98/57358	12/1998	WO			
	B17	99/02970	1/1999	WO			
	B18	99/03133	1/1999	WO			
	B19	99/23449	5/1999	WO			
	B20	99/25004	5/1999	WO			
	B21	99/31490	6/1999	WO			
	B22	99/38002	7/1999	WO			
	B23	99/39183	8/1999	WO			
	B24	99/41434	8/1999	WO			
	B25	99/45340	9/1999	WO			
	B26	99/54926	10/1999	WO			
	B27	99/59200	11/1999	WO			

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EXAM. INITIALS	REF. DES.	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB CLASS	TRANSLATION YES/NO
	B28	99/60614	11/1999	WO			
	B29	99/65056	12/1999	WO			
	B30	99/67626	12/1999	WO			
	B31	00/00873	1/2000	WO			
	B32	00/00874	1/2000	WO			
	B33	00/02037	1/2000	WO			
	B34	00/03234	1/2000	WO			
	B35	00/03421	1/2000	WO			
	B36	00/07226	2/2000	WO			
	B37	00/15870	3/2000	WO			
	B38	00/17907	3/2000	WO			
	B39	00/18543	4/2000	WO			
	B40	00/26609	5/2000	WO			
	B41	00/26613	5/2000	WO			
	B42	00/26646	5/2000	WO			
	B43	00/28577	5/2000	WO			
	B44	00/60657	10/2000	WO			
	B45	00/68673	11/2000	WO			
	B46	00/70332	11/2000	WO			
	B47	00/70646	11/2000	WO			
	B48	00/77500	12/2000	WO			
	B49	01/03145	1/2001	WO			
	B50	01/09566	2/2001	WO			
	B51	01/13098	2/2001	WO			
	B52	01/14925	3/2001	WO			

EXAMINER:

DATE CONSIDERED:

EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to the patent owner.